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City of Milwaukee Health Department Honored for Excellence in Public Health

**Milwaukee Health Department Recipient of Four out of 39 Nationwide
“Model Practice Awards”--- the Most Given to Any Health Department**

Milwaukee- The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) honored the City of Milwaukee Health Department for implementing a program that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to local public health need. VetNet, Water Quality Technical Workgroup, Tobacco-Free Sports Program, Evidence-based Targeting of Newborn Nurse Visits are four of 39 local public health programs selected from across the nation to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award.

- **VetNet** is an alert messaging system used to send Veterinarians and other Animal Health Professionals messages about rabies, salmonella in dog and cat treat and local emergency planning updates.
- **Water Quality Technical Workgroup** is a group of technical staff from the Milwaukee Water Works and the City of Milwaukee Health Department, which was initiated after the 1993 Cryptosporidium Outbreak. This team works to assure drinking water quality by reviewing data and water purification processes.
- **Tobacco-Free Sports Program** is a community-based health education program designed to reduce the burden of tobacco-related illnesses and promote active lifestyles. The primary goal of the program is to prevent youth tobacco initiation by linking tobacco-free lifestyles with health and physical fitness.
- **Evidence-based Targeting of Newborn Nurse Visits** is a program where Public Health Nurses conduct targeted home visits infants that are newly discharged from the birth hospital and are considered to be high-risk for infant mortality.

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“We are proud to receive NACCHO’s Model Practice Awards. These awards are evidence of our commitment to carry out Mayor Barrett’s charge to the Health Department to develop responsive and innovative public health programs which improve the health of all Milwaukee citizens,” said Bevan K. Baker, CHE, Commissioner of Health.

A committee of peers selected the City of Milwaukee Health Department from a group of 106 local public health agency applicants. The Model Practice Awards program honors initiative- including programs, resources, and tools- that demonstrate how local public health agencies and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health concerns. All of the City of Milwaukee Health Department programs will become a part of an online, searchable database of successful public health practices in areas ranging from immunization and maternal and child health to infectious disease and emergency preparedness. The database will allow NACCHO to share information about what is working across the country in local public health.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department joins a special group of public health agencies that exemplify the forward thinking, proactive attitude of our nation’s public health system,” said NACCHO President Michael Caldwell, MD, MPH. “NACCHO congratulates the City of Milwaukee Health Department on this important recognition.”

For more information about the City of Milwaukee Health Department, go to www.milwaukee.gov/health or to learn about other NACCHO Model practice Awards, go to www.naccho.org.

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